



IWO JIMA COMMEMORATION DAY

FEBRUARY 19 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 1980.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DOLE, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 140]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 140) having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with out amendment and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the joint resolution is to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating February 19, 1980, as Iwo Jima Commemoration Day."

STATEMENT

This resolution, on the 35th anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima, commemorates the heroism of the American servicemen who fought and died on the island of Iwo Jima in World War II. This commemoration is especially appropriate as our Nation finds itself in a period of increasing international tension, for it serves to remind all Americans that, though we are not a warlike people, Americans throughout history have acquitted themselves bravely in defense of our national interest.

Some familiarity with the battle for Iwo Jima has been etched on the popular memory through the famous photograph, and later monument, of the men of the 28th Marine Regiment raising the flag on Mount Suribachi. Iwo Jima was the site of some of the most ferocious fighting in World War II. The invasion required American Marines to attack the brave and skillful Japanese defenders across open beaches affording no significant cover. Consequently, 5,931 Marines were killed and 17,372 were wounded in the assault on the island. The American Naval forces supporting the invasion suffered about 850 additional casualties. At the same time, the Japanese sustained over 20,000 men killed.

Yet, in spite of these casualties, the victory at Iwo Jima was an important step in the American war effort, Iwo Jim was secured to establish an emergency base for American bombers on the long return trip from bombing runs over Japan. That goal was achieved. From the day of the battle, February 19, 1945, to the end of March, 1945, about 2,400 B-29 bombers made unscheduled landings on Iwo Jima, which thus afforded a refuge to about 25,000 crewmen.

Certainly the Americans who served at Iwo Jima and the relatives and friends of those who died there have just cause to be proud. Those now serving in the Armed Forces can also reflect with pride on the tradition of valor which is their duty to uphold. Through this commemoration, all American citizens salute those who struggled on Iwo Jima.

COST

No cost would result from the enactment of the Senate Joint Resolution 140.

REGULATORY IMPACT

In compliance with paragraph 5, rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee finds that no regulatory impact as defined by that subsection will result from its enactment.

